

SECTION**SERVICES****SUBJECT**

Companion Services

DEFINITION

Members may be paired, when appropriate and available, with a companion to provide support before, during, and following a crisis situation, transition from an institution, as well as providing social reintegration.

Member companions are persons or family members whose life experience provides expertise that professional training can't replicate. Companions will begin interacting with participants or family members before the crisis situation occurs, will stay in touch regularly, and work to integrate participants into the community and provide support to families.

COVERED SERVICES

Companion Services include assisting a member with light household tasks (meal preparation, laundry), supervision, social reintegration, and assistance with scheduling appointments.

LIMITATIONS

This service is not appropriate for a member who requires hands-on assistance with personal care needs or hands-on nursing care.

The member is not in need of an active psychiatric inpatient stay or mental health crisis services.

State Plan services must be utilized first.

This service will not duplicate homemaker services or respite services.

The amount of this service approved and provided will vary based on the needs of the individual and has a limit within an individual's person-centered recovery plan.

Companion services cannot be provided by the member's legally responsible relatives or those family members who normally provide the care.

A participant should identify a companion in his/her plan of care. The companion must be willing to serve as an employee of a provider agency or be an employee of a family who is self-directing their services.

Companion Services require prior authorization by the CPO.